

Document Log Item

Addressing	
From	To
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CC	BCC
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Description Form Used: Reply	
Subject	Date/Time
Assessment of the Chicken of the Sea (COS) Cannery	09/21/2009 01:42 PM
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NPM	Contributor
	Marcela VonVacano
Processing	
Comments	

Body

Document Body

Dear Dr. Vaiaga'e:

This is in response to your request to John McCarroll and Carl Goldstein, to conduct a follow-on assessment of the Chicken of the Sea (COS) cannery regarding possible environmental concerns associated with their plans to discontinue operations. I had tentatively scheduled the COS assessment to take place during my October 2009 trip to American Samoa. My planned October 2009 trip was to conduct a Superfund Removal Action of various hazardous substances, particularly Agricultural Chemicals, throughout Tutuila. Unfortunately, EPA R9 has not been

able to schedule the necessary packing and transportation materials in order to make a October removal action possible. For the removal action, an array of packaging materials and neutralizing chemicals need to be shipped by ocean transport, and these materials probably won't arrive in American Samoa until the November-December 2009 time frame.

I have discussed this matter with Carl Goldstein, Lance Richman (USEPA R9), William Sili, and Iosefatu Vaouli. All of these gentlemen have assured me that the immediate environmental concerns identified during Mr. Richman's EPCRA/RMP inspection have been addressed and confirmed by Mr. Sili and Mr. Vaouli of your staff. As you well know, I have worked with Mr. Sili and Mr. Vaouli on several occasions and I have complete confidence in their assessment. Mr. Richman indicated that there are issues that still need to be addressed and his inspection follow-up is still open, and in the interim, Lance Richman will be pursuing enforcement of the violations he identified during his EPCRA/RMP inspection.

Presently, I plan to mobilize my crew to conduct this Superfund removal action in January-February 2010, and at that time EPA R9 will conduct an environmental assessment of the COS facility to determine if there are any hazardous materials or waste present that would seriously threaten public health or safety.

I appreciate your understanding of the matter.

v/r

Christopher Weden
Region 9 - Emergency Response Section

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